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U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Park Service News Release

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP TO CELEBRATE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION THROUGH THE ARTS

Projects in New England, Pacific Northwest, and Southern California

The National Park Service (NPS) today announced a new partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to launch the Art and Community Landscapes Program. The program supports site-based public art as a catalyst for environmental awareness at the community level in New England, Southern California, and the Pacific Northwest.

“This new program celebrates and continues our nation’s rich tradition of artists who inspire landscape conservation. The National Park Service is excited to partner with the arts community in preserving and restoring ecologically vital areas for recreation and education,” said NPS Director Fran Mainella.

The Art and Community Landscapes (ACL) awards grants to artists to work with the NPS, community members, and nonprofit organizations. Pre-selected communities in each region will host artist residencies and support projects that address local and regional environmental concerns and outdoor recreation. During a year long residency, the work of the resident artists may include art installations, exhibitions, interpretive media, festivals, or other works informed by the sites and community partners.

“Art and Community Landscapes will provide a platform for artists to interact directly with people and organizations from environmentally sensitive areas,” said Sam Miller, Executive Director, New England Foundation for the Arts. “The idea is that through collaboration, thoughtful observation, and creativity, the artists and their community partners will create art that inspires greater awareness and involvement in protecting, restoring, and enhancing rivers, trails, and other special landscapes that contribute to their sense of place, culture and history.”

After reviewing an applicant pool of more than 130 proposals, \$2500 planning grants were awarded this winter to three artists or artist-teams for each of the ACL regions.

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Those nine artists or artist-teams are currently developing project proposals for their assigned region. This spring, a jury will select one artist or artist-team to receive the \$50,000 implementation grant for each region. The chosen recipients will immediately begin working with NPS staff, nonprofit partners and local citizens in the selected communities in each region. Information on finalists and project sites is available at www.nefa.org/culture/acl.html

Project Sites Across the U.S.

The three ACL regions have unique projects. The corresponding project sites are:

New England – The project will take place along the currently developing Northern Forest Canoe Trail: a 740 mile water trail linking Native American canoe routes along the rivers of northern Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and the Adirondacks of New York.

Pacific Northwest – (Washington, Oregon and Idaho)- Sites include a greenway corridor along the pristine Clark's Creek in Puyallup, Washington; an interpretive trail illustrating historical stories and natural surroundings along the Hoquartern Slough in Tillamook, Oregon; and restoration efforts along Indian Creek in Caldwell, Idaho.

Southern California – The four project sites in this region include a restoration study of the Arroyo Seco Watershed in the San Gabriel Mountains; the conversion of a railway corridor to a linear park in the City of Whittier; a landscape and habitat restoration plan for Ballona Creek in Culver City, and trail plan for the Puente Hills in Whittier and La Habra Heights.

The New England Foundation for the Arts connects people with the power of art to shape our lives and improve our communities. Visit their website at www.nefa.org

The National Endowment for the Arts, an investment in America's living cultural heritage, serves the public good by nurturing human creativity, supporting community spirit, and fostering appreciation of the excellence and diversity of our nation's artistic accomplishments. Visit their website at www.nea.gov

The National Park Service's Rivers & Trails program works with community groups and local and state governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. Visit their website at www.nps.gov/rtca/arts

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THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS COMPOSED OF MORE THAN 20,000 RANGERS, BIOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS, GEOLOGISTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WHO CARE FOR AMERICA'S 385 NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER SPECIAL PLACES SO THAT EVERYONE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE CAN EXPERIENCE AMERICA'S HISTORY AND BEAUTY.

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